

SELECTED MULTILATERAL ORGANIZATIONS

MULTILATERAL INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN WHICH THE UNITED STATES PARTICIPATES

Explanatory note: The United States participates in the organizations named below in accordance with the provisions of treaties, other international agreements, congressional legislation, or executive arrangements. In some cases, no financial contribution is involved.

Various commissions, councils, or committees subsidiary to the organizations listed here are not named separately on this list. These include the international bodies for drugs and crime, which are subsidiary to the United Nations.

This listing is provided for reference purposes and should not be considered exhaustive. For more information on international organizations and United States participation in them, contact the State Department's Bureau of International Organizations. Phone, 202-647-9326. Internet, www.state.gov/p/io.

I. Specialized Agencies of the United Nations

Food and Agricultural Organization
International Atomic Energy Agency
International Civil Aviation Organization
International Fund for Agriculture Development
International Labor Organization
International Maritime Organization
International Telecommunication Union
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
Universal Postal Union
World Health Organization
World Intellectual Property Organization
World Meteorological Organization

II. Peacekeeping

African Union/United Nations Hybrid Mission in Darfur
United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo
United Nations Mission in Ethiopia/Eritrea
United Nations Mission in Liberia
United Nations Mission in Sudan

United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia
United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti
United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (Middle East)

III. Inter-American Organizations

Caribbean Postal Union
Inter-American Center of Tax Administrators
Inter-American Indian Institute
Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research
Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission
Pan American Health Organization
Pan American Institute of Geography and History
Pan American Railway Congress Association
Postal Union of the Americas and Spain and Portugal

IV. Regional Organizations

Antarctic Treaty System
 Arctic Council
 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation
 Asia Pacific Energy Research Center
 Colombo Plan for Cooperative Economic
 and Social Development in Asia and
 the Pacific
 Commission for Environmental
 Cooperation
 Commission for Labor Cooperation
 International Commission for the
 Conservation of Atlantic Tunas
 North Atlantic Assembly
 North Atlantic Treaty Organization
 North Atlantic Salmon Conservation
 Organization
 North Pacific Anadromous Fish
 Commission
 North Pacific Coast Guard Forum
 North Pacific Marine Science
 Organization
 Northwest Atlantic Fisheries
 Organization
 Secretariat of the Pacific Community
 South Pacific Regional Environment
 Program
 Western and Central Pacific Fisheries
 Commission

V. Other International Organizations

Center for International Forestry
 Research
 Commission for the Conservation of
 Antarctic Marine Living Resources
 Consultative Group on International
 Agricultural Research
 COPAS-SARSAT (Search and Rescue
 Satellite System)
 Global Biodiversity Information Facility
 Integrated Ocean Drilling Program
 Council
 International Bureau for the Permanent
 Court of Arbitration
 International Bureau of Weights and
 Measures
 International Center for Agricultural
 Research in the Dry Areas
 International Center for Migration Policy
 Development
 International Center for the Study of the
 Preservation and the Restoration of
 Cultural Property
 International Coffee Organization
 International Committee of the Red Cross

International Cotton Advisory Committee
 International Council for the Exploration
 of the Seas
 International Criminal Police
 Organization (INTERPOL)
 International Customs Tariffs Bureau
 International Development Law
 Organization
 International Energy Agency
 International Energy Forum Secretariat
 International Fertilizer Development
 Center
 International Grains Council
 International Hydrographic Organization
 International Institute for Applied
 Systems Analysis
 International Institute for Cotton
 International Institute for the Unification
 of Private Law
 International Mobile Satellite
 Organization
 International North Pacific Fisheries
 Commission
 International Organization for Legal
 Metrology
 International Organization of Supreme
 Audit Institutions
 International Rubber Study Group
 International Science and Technology
 Center
 International Seed Testing Association
 International Service for National
 Agriculture Research
 International Sugar Council
 International Telecommunications
 Satellite Organization
 International Tropical Timber
 Organization
 International Union of Credit and
 Investment Insurers (Berne Union)
 International Whaling Commission
 Inter-Parliamentary Union
 Iran-United States Claims Tribunal
 Hague Conference on Private
 International Law
 Human Frontier Science Program
 Organization
 Multinational Force and Observers
 Nuclear Energy Agency
 Organization for Economic Cooperation
 and Development
 Organization for the Prohibition of
 Chemical Weapons
 Pacific Aviation Safety Office
 Permanent International Association of
 Navigation Congresses

Preparatory Commission for the
Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban
Treaty
Regional Environmental Center for
Central and Eastern Europe
Science and Technology Center in
Ukraine
Sierra Leone Special Court
World Heritage Fund
World Customs Organization
World Trade Organization

VI. Special Voluntary Programs

Asian Vegetable Research and
Development Center
Convention on International Trade in
Endangered Species of Wild Fauna
and Flora (CITES)
Global Fund to Fight HIV/AIDS,
Tuberculosis, and Malaria
International Council for Science
International Crop Research Institute for
Semi-Arid Tropics
International Federation of the Red Cross
and Red Crescent Societies
International Food Policy Research
Institute
International Fund for Agricultural
Development
International Institute of Tropical
Agriculture
Joint United Nations Program on HIV/
AIDS (UNAIDS)
Korean Peninsula Energy Development
Organization
Multilateral Fund for the Implementation
of the Montreal Protocol
Permanent Interstate Committee for
Drought Control in the Sahel
Ramsar Convention on Wetlands
United Nations Children's Fund
(UNICEF)
United Nations Development Fund for
Women (UNIFEM)
United Nations Development Program
United Nations Environment Program
United Nations World Food Program
United Nations High Commissioner for
Refugees Programs
United Nations Relief and Works Agency
United Nations Voluntary Fund for the
Victims of Torture
World Agroforestry Center
World Health Organization Special
Programs

African Development Bank

Headquarters (temporary): Angle des Trois
Rues, Avenue Du Ghana, Rue Pierre De
Coubertin, Rue Hedi Nour, BP. 323, 1002
Tunis Belvédère, Tunisia. Internet,
www.afdb.org. E-mail, afdb@afdb.org.

President: Donald Kaberuka

The African Development Bank (AFDB) was established in 1964 and, by charter amendment, opened its membership to non-African countries in 1982. Its mandate is to contribute to the economic development and social progress of its regional members. Bank members total 77, including 53 African countries and 24 nonregional countries. With the September 1999 ratification of the agreement on the fifth general capital increase, Bank ownership is 60 percent African and 40 percent nonregional.

The African Development Fund (AFDF), the concessional lending affiliate, was established in 1973 to complement AFDB operations by providing concessional financing for high-priority development projects in the poorest African countries. The Fund's membership consists of 25 nonregional member countries, South Africa, and AFDB, which represents its African members and is allocated half of the votes.

In February 2003, security concerns resulted in AFDB headquarters temporarily relocating to Tunis, Tunisia.

Asian Development Bank

Headquarters: 6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City, 1550 Metro Manila, Philippines. Phone, 632-632-4444. Fax, 632-636-2444. Internet, www.adb.org.

President: Haruhiko Kurodo

The Asian Development Bank commenced operations on December 19, 1966. It now has 67 member countries: 48 from Asia and 19 from outside the region.

The purpose of the Bank is to foster sustainable economic development, poverty alleviation, and cooperation among its developing member countries in the Asia/Pacific region.

For further information, contact the Asian Development Bank, P.O. Box 789, 0980 Manila, Philippines. E-mail, information@adb.org. Or contact the ADB North American Representative Office, 815 Connecticut Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20006. Phone, 202-728-1500. E-mail, adbnaro@adb.org.

Inter-American Defense Board *

2600 Sixteenth Street NW., Washington, DC 20441. Phone, 202-939-6041. Fax, 202-387-2880. Internet, www.jid.org. E-mail, protocol1@jid.org.

Chairman: Rear Adm. Elis Treidler Oberg

The Inter-American Defense Board is the oldest permanently constituted, international military organization in the world. It was founded by Resolution XXXIX of the Meeting of Foreign Ministers at Rio de Janeiro in January 1942. Senior army, navy, and air force officers from 25 member nations staff the various agencies of the Board. Its three major components are the Council of Delegates, the decisionmaking body; the International Staff; the Inter-American Defense College; and the Secretariat, which provides administrative and logistical support.

The Board studies and recommends to member governments measures it feels are necessary for the safety and security of the hemisphere. It also acts as a technical military adviser for the Organization of American States and is involved in projects such as disaster preparedness and humanitarian demining programs in Central and South America.

The Inter-American Defense College, founded in 1962, prepares senior military officers and civilian functionaries for positions in their respective governments. The College's multidisciplinary program uses four annual seminars to focus on the Western Hemisphere's most pressing defense and security issues.

* **EDITORIAL NOTE:** The Inter-American Defense Board did not meet the publication deadline for submitting updated information of its activities, functions, and sources of information.

Inter-American Development Bank

Headquarters: 1300 New York Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20577. Phone, 202-623-1000. Internet, www.iadb.org.

President: Luis Alberto Moreno

The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) was established in 1959 to help accelerate economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean. It is based in Washington, DC.

The Bank has 47 member countries, 26 of which are borrowing members in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Inter-American Investment Corporation

Headquarters: 1350 New York Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20577. Phone, 202-623-3900. Internet, www.iic.int.

Chairman of Board of Directors: Luis Alberto Moreno

General Manager: Jacques Rogozinski

The Inter-American Investment Corporation (IIC), an affiliate of the Inter-American Development Bank based in Washington, DC, began operations in 1989 to promote the economic development of its Latin American and Caribbean members by financing small- and medium-size private enterprises. IIC provides project financing in the form of direct loans and equity investments, lines of credit to local financial intermediaries, and investments in local and regional investment funds. IIC has 43 member countries, of which 27 are in the Western Hemisphere, including the United States, and 16 are outside the region.

International Bank for Reconstruction and Development

Headquarters: 1818 H Street NW., Washington, DC 20433. Phone, 202-473-1000

President: Robert Zoellick

The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), also known as the World Bank, officially came into existence on December 27, 1945.

The Bank's purpose is to promote economic, social, and environmental progress in developing nations by reducing poverty so that their people may live better and fuller lives. The Bank lends funds at market-determined interest rates, provides advice, and serves as a catalyst to stimulate outside investments. Its resources come primarily from funds raised in the world capital markets, its retained earnings, and repayments on its loans.

International Development Association

The International Development Association (IDA) came into existence on September 24, 1960, as an affiliate of IBRD. The Association's resources consist of subscriptions and supplementary resources in the form of general replenishments, mostly from its more industrialized and developed members; special contributions by its richer members; repayments on earlier credits; and transfers from IBRD's net earnings.

The Association promotes economic development, reduces poverty, and raises the standard of living in the least developed areas of the world. It does this by financing their developmental requirements on concessionary terms, which are more flexible and bear less heavily on the balance of payments than those of conventional loans, thereby furthering the objectives of IBRD and supplementing its activities.

International Finance Corporation

Headquarters: 2121 Pennsylvania Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20433. Phone, 202-473-3800. Internet, www.ifc.org.

President: Robert Zoellick

Executive Vice President: Lars Thunell

The International Finance Corporation (IFC), an affiliate of the World Bank, was established in July 1956 to promote productive private enterprise in developing member countries.

The Corporation pursues its objective principally through direct debt and equity investments in projects that establish new businesses or expand, modify, or diversify existing businesses.

It also encourages cofinancing by other investors and lenders.

Additionally, advisory services and technical assistance are provided by IFC to developing member countries in areas such as capital market development, privatization, corporate restructuring, and foreign investment.

International Monetary Fund

700 Nineteenth Street NW., Washington, DC 20431. Phone, 202-623-7000. Fax, 202-623-4661. Internet, www.imf.org.

Managing Director and Chairman of the Executive Board: Dominique Strauss-Kahn

First Deputy Managing Director:

John Lipsky

Deputy Managing Directors: Murilo Portugal, Takatoshi Kato

The Final Act of the United Nations Monetary and Financial Conference, signed at Bretton Woods, NH, on July 22, 1944, set forth the original Articles of Agreement of the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The Agreement became effective on December 27, 1945, when the President, authorized by the Bretton Woods Agreements Act (22 U.S.C. 286), accepted membership for the United States in IMF, the Agreement having thus been accepted by countries whose combined financial commitments (quotas) equaled approximately 80 percent of IMF's original quotas. The inaugural meeting of the Board of Governors was held in March 1946, and the first meeting of the Executive Directors was held May 6, 1946.

On May 31, 1968, the Board of Governors approved an amendment to the Articles of Agreement for the establishment of a facility based on Special Drawing Rights (SDR) in IMF and for modification of certain IMF rules and practices. The amendment became effective on July 28, 1969, and the Special Drawing Account became operative on August 6, 1969. United States acceptance of the amendment and participation in the Special Drawing Account were authorized by the Special Drawing Rights Act (22 U.S.C. 286 *et seq.*).

On April 30, 1976, the Board of Governors approved a second

amendment to the Articles of Agreement, which entered into force on April 1, 1978. This amendment gave members the right to adopt exchange arrangements of their choice while placing certain obligations on them regarding their exchange rate policies, over which IMF was to exercise firm surveillance. The official price of gold was abolished, and the SDR account was promoted as the principal reserve asset of the international monetary system. United States acceptance of this amendment was authorized by the Bretton Woods Agreements Act Amendments (22 U.S.C. 286e-5).

On June 28, 1990, the Board of Governors approved a third amendment to the Articles of Agreement, which became effective on November 11, 1992. Under this amendment, a member's voting rights and certain related rights may be suspended by a 70-percent majority of the executive board if the member, having been declared ineligible to use the general resources of the Fund, persists in its failure to fulfill any of its obligations under the Articles.

As of December 31, 2007, IMF had 185 member countries. Total quotas at the end of December 2007 were SDR 217.3 billion (about \$343.4 billion).

The IMF promotes international monetary cooperation through a permanent forum for consultation and collaboration on international monetary problems; facilitates the expansion and balanced growth of international trade; promotes exchange rate stability; assists in the establishment of an open multilateral system of payments for current transactions among members; and gives confidence to members by making IMF resources temporarily available to them under adequate safeguards.

IMF helps its members correct imbalances in their international balances of payments. It periodically examines the economic developments and policies of its member countries, offers policy advice, and at member's request and upon executive board approval, provides financial assistance through a variety of financial facilities

designed to address specific problems. These financing mechanisms provide access to the Fund's general resources to offer short-term assistance during crises of market confidence, compensatory financing to countries suffering declines in export earnings, emergency assistance for countries recovering from natural disasters or armed conflict, and low-interest rate resources to support structural adjustment and promote growth in the poorest countries. IMF also provides technical assistance and training to its members. As of December 31, 2007, IMF usable resources were SDR 165.4 billion (\$261.4 billion), and 1-year forward commitment capacity was SDR 127.7 billion (\$201.7 billion).

For further information, contact the Chief, Public Affairs Division, External Relations Department, International Monetary Fund, 700 Nineteenth Street NW., Washington, DC 20431. Phone, 202-623-7300. Fax, 202-623-6278. E-mail, publicaffairs@imf.org. Internet, www.imf.org.

International Organization for Migration

Headquarters: 17 Route des Morillons, Grand-Saconnex, Geneva. Mailing address, P.O. Box 71, CH-1211, Geneva 19, Switzerland. Phone, 011-41-22-717-9111. Fax, 011-41-22-798-6150. Internet, www.iom.int.

Director General: Brunson McKinley (United States)

Deputy Director General: Ndioro Ndiaye (Senegal)

Washington Office: Suite 700, 1752 N Street NW., Washington, DC 20036. Phone, 202-862-1826. Fax, 202-862-1879. E-mail, MRFWashington@iom.int.

Regional Representative: Richard Scott (United States)

New York Office: Suite 1610, 122 E. 42d Street, New York, NY 10168. Phone, 212-681-7000. Fax, 212-867-5887. E-mail, newyork@iom.int

Chief of Mission: Michael Gray (United States)

Permanent Observer to the United Nations: Luca Dall'Oglio (Italy)

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) was formed in 1951 as the Intergovernmental Committee for

European Migration (ICEM) to help solve the postwar problems of refugees and displaced persons in Europe and to assist in orderly transatlantic migration. It adopted its current name in 1989 to reflect its progressively global outreach. Since its creation, IOM has assisted more than 12 million refugees and migrants in over 125 countries. As of December 2007, 122 governments are members of IOM, and 18 others have observer status. IOM has observer status at the United Nations.

IOM's guiding principle is that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and societies. In carrying out its mandate, IOM helps migrants, governments, and civil society plan and operate international and national migration programs at the request of its member states and in cooperation with other international organizations. Its major objectives are the processing and movement of migrants and refugees to countries offering them permanent resettlement opportunities; the promotion of orderly migration to meet the needs of both emigration and immigration communities; counter-trafficking activities; the transfer of technology through migration in order to promote the economic, educational, and social advancement of developing countries; the provision of a forum for states and other partners to exchange views; the promotion of cooperation and coordination on migration issues; and technical cooperation and advisory services on migration policies and legislation.

Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency

Headquarters: 1818 H Street NW., Washington, DC 20433. Phone, 202-458-9292. Internet, www.miga.org.

President: Robert Zoellick

Executive Vice President: Yukiko Omura

The Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), an affiliate of the World Bank, was formally constituted in April 1988.

Its basic purpose is to facilitate the flow of foreign private investment for

productive purposes to developing member countries by offering long-term political risk insurance in the areas of expropriation, transfer restriction, breach of contract, and war and civil disturbance; and by providing advisory and consultative services. The Agency cooperates with national investment insurance schemes, such as OPIC, and with private insurers.

Organization of American States*

Headquarters: Seventeenth Street and Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20006. Phone, 202-458-3000. Fax, 202-458-3967. Internet, www.oas.org.

Secretary General: José Miguel Insulza

Assistant Secretary General: Albert R. Ramdin

The Organization of American States (OAS) brings together the countries of the Western Hemisphere to strengthen cooperation and advance common interests. At the core of the OAS mission is a commitment to democracy. Building on this foundation, OAS works to promote good governance, strengthen human rights, foster peace and security, expand trade, and address the complex problems caused by poverty, drugs, and corruption. Through decisions made by its political bodies and programs carried out by its General Secretariat, OAS promotes greater inter-American cooperation and understanding.

OAS member states have intensified their cooperation since the end of the cold war, taking on new and important challenges. In 1994, the region's 34 democratically elected presidents and prime ministers met in Miami for the First Summit of the Americas, where they established broad political, economic, and social development goals. They have continued to meet periodically since then to examine common interests and priorities. Through the ongoing Summits of the Americas process, the region's leaders have entrusted the OAS with a growing number of

* **EDITORIAL NOTE:** The Organization of American States did not meet the publication deadline for submitting updated information of its activities, functions, and sources of information.

responsibilities to help advance the countries' shared vision.

With four official languages—English, Spanish, Portuguese, and French—the OAS reflects the rich diversity of peoples and cultures across the Americas. The OAS has 35 member states; the independent nations of North, Central and South America; and the Caribbean. Since 1962, Cuba has been barred from participation by resolution of the Eight Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs. Countries from all around the world are permanent observers, closely following the issues that are critical to the Americas and often providing key financial support for OAS programs.

Member states set major policies and goals through the General Assembly, which gathers the hemisphere's foreign ministers once a year in regular session. The Permanent Council, made up of ambassadors appointed by member states, meets regularly at OAS headquarters in Washington, DC, to guide ongoing policies and actions. The chairmanship of the Permanent Council rotates every 3 months, in alphabetical order of countries. Each member state has an equal voice, and most decisions are made through consensus.

Also under the OAS umbrella are several specialized agencies that have considerable autonomy. Those agencies are the Pan American Health Organization in Washington, DC; the Inter-American Children's Institute in Montevideo, Uruguay; the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture in San José, Costa Rica; and the Pan American Institute of Geography and History and the Inter-American Indian Institute, both in Mexico City.

In 1948, 21 nations of the hemisphere signed the OAS Charter at the Ninth International Conference of American States. They were Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba (barred from participation), Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, United States of America, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

Subsequently, 14 other countries joined the OAS by signing and ratifying

the Charter. They were Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica, Grenada, Suriname, Dominica, Saint Lucia, Antigua and Barbuda, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, the Bahamas, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Canada, Belize, and Guyana. This brings the number of member states to 35.

For further information, contact the Director, Department of Press and Communications, OAS, 1889 F Street NW., Washington, DC 20006. Phone, 202-458-3760. Fax, 202-458-6421.

United Nations

United Nations, New York, NY 10017.
Phone, 212-963-1234. Internet, www.un.org.
Secretary-General: Ban Ki-moon

United Nations Office at Geneva: Palais des Nations, 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland
Director-General: Sergei Ordzhonikidze

United Nations Office at Vienna: Vienna International Centre, P.O. Box 500, A-1400, Vienna, Austria
Director-General: Antonio Maria Costa

Washington, DC, Office: U.N. Information Centre, Suite 400, 1775 K Street NW., Washington, DC 20006. Phone, 202-331-8670. Fax, 202-331-9191. Internet, www.unicwash.org. E-mail, unicdc@unicwas.org
Director: Will Davis

The United Nations is an international organization that was set up in accordance with the Charter¹ drafted by governments represented at the Conference on International Organization meeting at San Francisco. The Charter was signed on June 26, 1945, and came into force on October 24, 1945, when the required number of ratifications and accessions had been made by the signatories. Amendments increasing membership of the Security Council and the Economic and Social

¹ Charter of the United Nations, together with the Statute of the International Court of Justice (Department of State Publication No. 2353, International Organization and Conference Series III, 21), June 26, 1945. Available for sale from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402. Phone, 202-512-1800.

Council came into effect on August 31, 1965.

The United Nations now consists of 191 member states, of which 51 are founding members.

The purposes of the United Nations set out in the Charter are to maintain international peace and security; to develop friendly relations among nations; to achieve international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian character and in promoting respect for human rights; and to be a center for harmonizing the actions of nations in the attainment of these common ends.

The principal organs of the United Nations are as follows:

General Assembly All states that are members of the United Nations are members of the General Assembly. Its functions are to consider and discuss any matter within the scope of the Charter of the United Nations and to make recommendations to the members of the United Nations and other organs. It approves the budget of the organization, the expenses of which are borne by the members as apportioned by the General Assembly.

The General Assembly may call the attention of the Security Council to situations likely to endanger international peace and security, may initiate studies, and may receive and consider reports from other organs of the United Nations. Under the "Uniting for Peace" resolution adopted by the General Assembly in November 1950, if the Security Council fails to act on an apparent threat to or breach of the peace or act of aggression because of lack of unanimity of its five permanent members, the Assembly itself may take up the matter within 24 hours—in emergency special session—and recommend collective measures, including, in case of a breach of the peace or act of aggression, use of armed force when necessary to maintain or restore international peace and security.

The General Assembly normally meets in regular annual session from September through December. It also

has met in special sessions and emergency special sessions.

Security Council The Security Council consists of 15 members, of which 5—the People's Republic of China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America—are permanent members. The 10 nonpermanent members are elected for 2-year terms by the General Assembly. The primary responsibility of the Security Council is to act on behalf of the members of the United Nations in maintenance of international peace and security. Measures that may be employed by the Security Council are outlined in the Charter.

The Security Council, together with the General Assembly, also elects the judges of the International Court of Justice and makes a recommendation to the General Assembly on the appointment of the Secretary-General of the organization.

The Security Council first met in London on January 17, 1946, and is so organized as to be able to function continuously.

Economic and Social Council This organ is responsible, under the authority of the General Assembly, for the economic and social programs of the United Nations. Its functions include making or initiating studies, reports, and recommendations on international economic, social, cultural, educational, health, and related matters; promoting respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all; calling international conferences and preparing draft conventions for submission to the General Assembly on matters within its competence; negotiating agreements with the specialized agencies and defining their relationship with the United Nations; coordinating the activities of the specialized agencies; and consulting with nongovernmental organizations concerned with matters within its competence. The Council consists of 54 members of the United Nations elected by the General Assembly for 3-year terms; 18 are elected each year.

The Council usually holds two regular sessions a year. It has also held a number of special sessions.

Trusteeship Council The Trusteeship Council was initially established to consist of any member states that administered trust territories, permanent members of the Security Council that did not administer trust territories, and enough other nonadministering countries elected by the General Assembly for 3-year terms to ensure that membership would be equally divided between administering and nonadministering members. Under authority of the General Assembly, the Council considered reports from members administering trust territories, examined petitions from trust territory inhabitants, and provided for periodic inspection visits to trust territories.

With the independence of Palau, the last remaining U.N. trust territory, the Trusteeship Council formally suspended operations after nearly half a century. The council will henceforth meet only on an extraordinary basis, as the need may arise.

International Court of Justice The International Court of Justice is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations. It has its seat at The Hague, the Netherlands. All members of the United Nations are *ipso facto* parties to the

Statute of the Court. Nonmembers of the United Nations may become parties to the Statute of the Court on conditions prescribed by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Security Council.

The jurisdiction of the Court comprises all cases that the parties refer to it and all matters specially provided for in the Charter of the United Nations or in treaties and conventions in force.

The Court consists of 15 judges known as "members" of the Court. They are elected for 9-year terms by the General Assembly and the Security Council, voting independently, and may be reelected.

Secretariat The Secretariat consists of a Secretary-General and "such staff as the Organization may require." The Secretary-General, who is appointed by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Security Council, is the chief administrative officer of the United Nations. He acts in that capacity for the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council, and the Trusteeship Council. Under the Charter, the Secretary-General "may bring to the attention of the Security Council any matter that in his opinion may threaten the maintenance of international peace and security."